***What is FLACS?***

FLACS Is the Foreign Language Association of Chairpersons and Supervisors.

For more information, visit [www.FLACS.org](http://www.FLACS.org). This organization was formed in response to the State’s cancellation of the former 2nd language proficiency and New York State Regents exams in foreign languages. It is comprised of an executive board of officers and member schools statewide. FLACS provides high-quality, low-cost exams at both levels 1 and 3 that are aligned to the New York State standards and the former exam formats.

***Why should you consider using the FLACS exam for your level I and level III foreign language exams?***

1. **The most cost-effective option:** For a single, yearly membership of just $50, a district can have access to high-quality exams at both levels 1 and 3 that are aligned to the New York State standards and that follow the former state exam formats. These exams are available in French, Spanish, Italian, German, and Chinese. This single membership by one person in the district each year provides access to both exams in all of these languages.
2. **A true statewide benchmark:** The FLACS exams are the only true statewide benchmarks for these 2 exams. The same format from the 2nd language proficiency and Regents exams have been kept so that schools across the state can compare results from their students with the rest of the state. The FLACS website lists the current member schools of the Consortium for this year.
3. **Consider the alternatives (that must be done every year):**
   1. **Local teachers write the exam in isolation with little to no field testing:** The individual teacher or teachers of each language must make up an exam that was formerly made up by numerous professionals (foreign language teachers and test-writing experts) working for the New York State Department of Education. These exams were systematically field-tested to ensure fairness and reviewed to ensure accuracy and appropriate breadth and depth prior to being administered to students across New York State. Most individual teachers do not have the ability to field test exam questions and yet the level I and level III exams still count towards graduation requirements and therefore are high-stakes exams.
   2. **Schools may participate send teachers to write for local consortiums:** Individual districts may choose to participate in local consortiums in which teachers write these two exams. In many cases, districts will need to pay a great deal more than $50 per year in order to participate in these consortiums (substitute teacher pay, participation fees, etc.). It is also important to note that for those teachers that participate in the actual exam writing, there is lost instructional time due to the teacher’s absence.
4. FLACS also provides professional development (workshops, annual conference), NYSED updates, best practices in LOTE, professional support, and advocacy for LOTE instruction.
5. In order to bring the levels I and III foreign language exams into alignment with the Common Core State Standards, the FLACS exam for June 2015 will include a document based writing task. More information on this can be had by attending the workshop offered by FLACS at the NYSAFLT Annual Conference held on October 10th and 11th in Rochester New York (www.NYSAFLT.org). The June 2014 exams remain exactly the same as previous years proficiency and Regents exams.

**In short, the FLACS exams provide the following benefits:**

* **The lowest overall cost ($50 total) for both the levels 1 and 3 exams in 5 different languages.**
* **No lost instructional time**
* **A statewide benchmark**
* **Future alignment of these exams to the Common Core State Standards**
* **Added benefits of professional development and advocacy**

What is the process for joining FLACS and getting access to these exams?

1. The district must 1st join the organization by appointing a district employee (such as a LOTE supervisor) to represent the district and purchase the $50 yearly membership. Membership applications are available online at <http://www.flacs.org/membership/>.
2. Once membership payment has been received and the membership is activated, the Superintendent of Schools must complete a short, online application to sign up for the exam consortium.
3. Exam materials are sent electronically to the district-designated employee approximately 2 weeks prior to the exam date, which is chosen by FLACS (this year’s exam will be on June 23rd – level 1 in the morning, level 3 in the afternoon).
4. Every year that the district is part of the consortium, they will have access to prior exams.